



## **PROGRESS REPORT NO. 105**

**TO:** Dr. Laura Buelow – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email  
Matt Wilkening – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email

**FROM:** Kris McCaig – Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

**DATE:** April 6, 2015

**FILE NO:** 01-773180-000

**RE:** Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study  
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 105 Month Ending March 2015

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Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Phase 2 Sediment Study - Field sampling activities were completed on October 24, 2013. Validated field sediment and porewater chemistry data have been reviewed and approved by EPA.

Short-term bioassay tests (i.e., 10-day *Chironomus dilutes* and 28-day *Hyalella azteca*) were completed for all batches on April 24, 2014. Bioassay test data and analytical chemistry data for porewater and sediment samples collected during the short term bioassay tests have been loaded into the project database; chemistry data have been reviewed by EPA and TAI is in receipt of several letters from EPA's detailing the review. TAI responded to EPA's review comments on March 3, 2015.

Long-term bioassay tests (i.e., *Chironomus dilutes* and 42-day *Hyalella azteca*) were initiated on February 12, 2015 and will continue into April.

As detailed in the EPA-approved technical memorandum describing how the backscatter electron microscopy (BSEM) will be performed on archived Phase 2 Study, samples were shipped from ALS to RJ Lee Group in December 2014 and the lab began analyses in January 2015. On February 24, 2015 TAI submitted to EPA, RJ Lee Group's Example Report for UCR Phase 2 Sediments BSEM analysis. This report was provided as an example to illustrate how the BSEM data will be presented, and is not an initial data delivery. BSEM analysis on all samples is scheduled for completion the first week of April 2015.

As required in “Resolution A” in the January 18, 2013 letter from EPA which detailed the resolution to the TAI’s dispute of EPA’s comments on the Phase 2 Sediment Study quality assurance project plan, TAI submitted the Draft Chemicals of Potential Concern Refinement Document to EPA on March 31, 2015. We wish to confirm that in addition to distributing the document per the RI/FS document distribution, it is also accessible to registered users via the secure domain of the project website ([www.ucr-rifs.com](http://www.ucr-rifs.com)).

Bossburg Flat Beach Refined Sediment and Soil Study - TAI received EPA’s January 20, 2014 letter with approval of the QAPP and finalized the document for signature. TAI submitted an application to the National Park Service on February 2, 2015 for a special use permit to conduct the sampling and received the permit from NPS on February 23, 2015. TAI executed the permit and provided copies to EPA on February 26, 2015. Sampling is scheduled to begin on April 14, 2015.

Soil Study – Field sampling activities commenced on September 8, 2014 and were completed on October 23, 2014. Chemistry analysis of the incremental composite soil samples is complete, validated data was submitted to EPA and EPA completed their quality assurance review.

Benthic Macroinvertebrate Tissue Study – TAI is in receipt of EPA’s August 19, 2013 Expected Level of Effort For Sampling Benthic Macroinvertebrate Tissue, Upper Columbia River paper and submitted the Draft Quality Assurance Project Plan for the Macroinvertebrate Tissue Study to EPA on November 18, 2014 for review and comment.

Human Health – TAI received from EPA, the draft data analysis report (DAR) for the Recreational Use Survey on January 17, 2014 and submitted comments to EPA on June 11, 2014.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.